

wireless networks. I look forward to working with Senator CANTWELL in her capacity as chair of the Senate Commerce Committee, Commerce Secretary Raimondo, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on this important issue.

ZAMBIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to discuss Zambia's upcoming elections and the erosion of democracy under President Edgar Lungu. On August 12, the people of Zambia will go to the polls to elect their President and members of the National Assembly. They will do so under the cloud of growing authoritarianism, with troops in the streets, protesters in prison, and dissenting voices muzzled by censorship. Indeed, many Zambians have good reason to be dissatisfied with their present government and, in a free and fair vote, might very well reject President Lungu's bid for reelection. But I fear they may not have that opportunity.

For nearly 30 years, Zambians have enjoyed a relatively free and open political environment. In 1991, Zambia's founding father Kenneth Kaunda lost the country's first multiparty election in decades and gracefully stepped aside after 27 years in power. President Kaunda died in June of this year, at the age of 97, with a complicated legacy; he was a liberator, but also held an iron grip on power for nearly three decades. However, his final act of public service paved the way for democracy to take root in his country in the years that followed. Sadly, President Lungu is erasing that monumental contribution to the Zambian people.

Since President Lungu's rise to power in 2014, he has used the organs of the state to intimidate his political opponents and consolidate power for his Patriotic Front—PF—party. Freedom House rates Zambia as only “partly free,” citing laws and government actions which have had the effect of restricting the activities of opposition parties, limiting civil society participation, and curbing free expression. Similarly, the U.S. Department of State, in its 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, noted “significant human rights issues” in Zambia, particularly in the area of elections and political participation.

In March, the Zambian political analyst Dr. Sishuwa published an essay in which he warned that “Zambia may burn after the August elections.” He wrote that the public's distrust of Zambia's institutions and the ruthless competition between its political elites had contributed to a climate of fear and anger that could plunge the country into chaos. The subversion of the independence of the courts and other public institutions has led to a lack of confidence. Credible allegations of corruption and impunity have been made against leaders. A collapsing economy,

mismanaged by President Lungu to the point of defaulting on its foreign loans, has resulted in mass youth unemployment and rising inequality. Dr. Sishuwa also noted Western countries' declining assistance to Zambia and their silence on its democratic backsliding. He painted a vivid image of a once-peaceful and prosperous country on the brink of calamity. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, Zambian police began investigating Dr. Sishuwa for sedition shortly after the essay's publication.

Indeed, political violence has already arrived on the streets of Zambia. Fighting between supporters of the PF and the opposition United Party for National Development—UPND—left at least two people dead last week. Troops have been mobilized to restore order, but Zambian security forces have also been accused of using deadly force against peaceful protesters.

The United States has a clear interest in ensuring that Zambia remains a free and stable country. We have provided approximately \$500 million in assistance to Zambia every year. At a time of increasing instability in Southern Africa, with unrest in South Africa and Eswatini, crackdowns in Zimbabwe, a brutal insurgency in Mozambique, and the rampant spread of COVID-19, the region cannot afford Zambia's collapse. We know that instability anywhere has a rippling effect that impacts U.S. interests and our allies.

Moreover, Zambia presents a test for the Biden administration's commitment to promoting and protecting democracy abroad. I encourage the administration to more address Zambia's democratic backsliding. I hope that is corrected before elections commence. We should be clear with President Lungu that the United States does not tolerate authoritarianism and that the generosity of the American people is not without limits. The United States should increase support for Zambian civil-society and democracy and governance programming in Zambia. Finally, the Biden administration can demonstrate its commitment to the bilateral relationship by nominating a skilled and experienced diplomat to serve as ambassador to Zambia.

While the United States stands with the Zambian people, ultimately, responsibility for Zambia's democratic decline lies squarely with President Lungu and his government. In the short term, President Lungu must commit to holding free and fair elections on August 12 and ensure transparency in the process by permitting election monitors to observe the vote without restrictions. He must also publicly commit to accept the outcome of the election, and step aside should he lose. Regardless of the outcome, the PF, UPND, and all other parties must work together to restore the integrity and independence of public institutions, end impunity for state violence, and address corruption. They must do

this by partnering with civil society, restoring freedom of the press, and respecting civil liberties. They must accept that dissent and protest are not a threat to their power, but rather proof of a healthy polity.

This will be a long and difficult process which will test the courage and patriotism of Zambia's elites. Next week's elections may be the first step towards Zambia's renewal or else the next step towards its ruin. Perhaps President Lung can take inspiration from Kenneth Kendal's final act of leadership and put his country before his own political interests.

RECOGNIZING THE MINORITY VETERANS OF AMERICA

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Minority Veterans of America on the occasion of their fourth anniversary on August 7, 2021. Minority Veterans of America is doing important work in home State of Washington and around the country advancing equity and justice for nearly 5 million underrepresented veterans, including women, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and religious and nonreligious minorities. As a nation, we make a promise to take care of our veterans when they return from service. It is the least we can do for those who have sacrificed to defend our freedoms. Minority Veterans of America addresses the additional challenges minority veterans face in receiving the benefits they have earned.

Minority Veterans of America was founded in Washington State in 2017 by two military veterans, Lindsay Church and Katherine Pratt. Over the course of 4 years, Minority Veterans of America has grown to include thousands of members spread across nearly every State. They have worked tirelessly advocating for reforms that address economic and health disparities among minority veterans. In my home State of Washington, they have organized innovative programs that address the unique need of minority veterans in transitioning to civilian life, financial stability, social engagement, and access to resources. At the national level, Minority Veterans of America has organized grassroots movements to address issues such as discrimination in the military, military sexual trauma, and the transgender military ban. They also work directly with the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase equitable and inclusive access to services.

It is clear to me that Minority Veterans of America has made a substantial contribution to veterans in Washington State and across the country. It is my pleasure to thank Minority Veterans of America for their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Minority Veterans of America on 4 years of outstanding service to our military veterans and look forward to working with them in the years to come as we continue to advance equity and inclusion for our veterans.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2670. A bill to provide for redistricting reform, and for other purposes.

S. 2671. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2401. A bill to reauthorize the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2672. A bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities, by revitalizing severely distressed housing, and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, educational opportunities, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2673. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to modify the provisions relating to treatment courts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2674. A bill to reauthorize funding for programs to prevent, investigate, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. ERNST, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2675. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 341. A resolution commemorating the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Security Treaty among Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr.

MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 342. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the practice of politically motivated imprisonment of women around the world and calling on governments for the immediate release of women who are political prisoners; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 343. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Maurice Robert Gravel, former Senator from the State of Alaska; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 864

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2578, a bill to extend the moratorium on residential evictions, and for other purposes.

S. 2668

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2668, a bill to require the Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to provide assistance relating to broadband access, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2504

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2504 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2536

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2536 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3684, a bill to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 341—COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE SECURITY TREATY AMONG AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 341

Whereas the United States and Australia signed the Security Treaty among Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America (referred to in this resolution as the "ANZUS Treaty") in San Francisco on September 1, 1951;

Whereas the United States Senate provided advice and consent for ratification of the ANZUS Treaty on March 20, 1952, and the ANZUS Treaty entered into force on April 29, 1952;

Whereas the signing of the ANZUS Treaty formalized an alliance that began when United States and Australian forces fought together and won the Battle of Hamel on the Western Front, France on July 4, 1918, under the command of Australian General John Monash;

Whereas since 1915, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand have a longstanding history of supporting each other in the realm of defense and security, fighting alongside each other during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and in Afghanistan and Iraq;

Whereas more than 100,000 Australian and New Zealand service members have paid the ultimate sacrifice alongside their brothers and sisters in arms from the United States;

Whereas Australia is the only party to the treaty to invoke Article IV of the ANZUS Treaty, done so on September 14, 2001, in response to the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, in a show of stalwart support for the American people;

Whereas the Force Posture Agreement between the Government of Australia and the